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Contact: 97 - 85
Jay Ziegler
Kirsten Powers
Christine Wilkas
(202) 395-3230

**USTR ANNOUNCES ALLOCATION OF THE RAW CANE SUGAR, REFINED SUGAR
AND SUGAR CONTAINING PRODUCTS TARIFF-RATE QUOTAS FOR 1997-98**

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky today announced the country-by-country allocations of 1,200,000 metric tons (1,322,773 short tons) of the raw cane sugar tariff rate quota for Fiscal Year 1998. These allocations are based on the countries' historical trade to the United States.

The 1,200,000 metric tons for raw cane sugar are being allocated to the following countries in metric tons, raw value:

<u>Country</u>	<u>FY1998 Allocation</u>
Argentina	48,101
Australia	92,846
Barbados	7,830
Belize	12,305
Bolivia	8,949
Brazil	162,201
Colombia	26,847
Congo	7,258
Cote d'Ivoire	7,258
Costa Rica	16,779
Dominican Republic	196,878
Ecuador	12,305
El Salvador	29,084
Fiji	10,068
Gabon	7,258

Guatemala	53,694
Guyana	13,424
Haiti	7,258
Honduras	11,186
India	8,949
Jamaica	12,305
Madagascar	7,258
Malawi	11,186
Mauritius	13,424
Mexico	25,000
Mozambique	14,542
Nicaragua	23,491
Panama	32,440
Papua New Guinea	7,258
Paraguay	7,258
Peru	45,864
Philippines	151,015
South Africa	25,728
St. Kitts & Nevis	7,258
Swaziland	17,898
Taiwan	13,424
Thailand	15,661
Trinidad-Tobago	7,830
Uruguay	7,258
Zimbabwe	<u>13,424</u>

Total	1,200,000
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This allocation includes the following minimum-quota countries: Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Gabon, Haiti, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, St. Kitts & Nevis, and Uruguay.

United States Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky also announced that 25,000 metric tons (27,558 short tons) of the 50,000 metric tons (55,116 short tons) for refined sugar will be allocated to Mexico in order to fulfill obligations pursuant to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). As a result of an agreement reached with Canada, 10,300 metric tons (11,354 short tons) of refined sugar and 59,250 metric tons (65,312 short tons) of the tariff-rate quota for certain sugar-containing products maintained under Additional U.S. Note 8 to chapter 17 to the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States will be allocated to Canada. Separately, an additional 2,954 metric tons (3,256 short tons) of refined sugar will be allocated to Mexico. The remainder of the refined sugar tariff-rate quota will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, including the 4,656 metric tons (5,132 short tons) reserved for specialty sugars. The remainder of the sugar-containing products tariff-rate quota will be available for other countries.

The 25,000 metric tons, raw value, of refined sugar allocated to Mexico pursuant to the NAFTA are subject to the condition that the total imports of raw and refined sugar from Mexico, combined, is not to exceed 25,000 metric tons raw value. The allocations of the raw and refined sugar tariff-rate quotas to countries that are net importers of sugar are conditioned on receipt of the appropriate verifications.

Conversion factor: 1 metric ton = 1.10231125 short tons